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at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 6th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. HOLOHAN (Ireland)
(Vice-Chairman)

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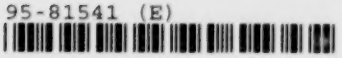

In the absence of Mr. Muthaura (Kenya), Mr. Holohan (Ireland), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 18: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (Territories not covered under other agenda items) (continued) (A/50/23 (Part V, chap. IX, and Part VI, chap. X) and A/50/504; A/AC.109/2012, 2013 and Corr.1 and Add.1, 2015 and Add.1, 2016 and Add.1, 2017 and Add.1, 2019 and Add.1, 2020 and Add.1, 2021-2023, 2025, 2028, 2029 and Add.1 and 2030; S/1995/240 and Add.1, 404 and 779)

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AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued) (A/50/3 (chap. V, sect. C))

AGENDA ITEM 91: OFFERS BY MEMBER STATES OF STUDY AND TRAINING FACILITIES FOR INHABITANTS OF NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES (continued) (A/50/481)

1. Mr. CORBIN (Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)), speaking under agenda item 90, said that the programme of activities of ECLAC and its subsidiary body, the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC), mandated by the relevant General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions extended to the seven Caribbean Non-Self-Governing Territories within the Fourth Committee's purview as well as three former dependent Territories currently with free-association status. Like its counterpart, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), ECLAC offered associate membership to most Territories.

2. In 1987, CDCC had asked that consideration be given to granting the Territories access to programmes and activities of the United Nations system; and in 1990 it had set up the Working Group of Non-Independent Caribbean Countries to review the development work being done by the United Nations and to promote relevant United Nations observer status for the Territories.

3. By 1994, the ECLAC subregional headquarters in Trinidad and Tobago had decided on a work programme relating to the specific needs of the Caribbean

Territories. It included finding ways of facilitating observer status for the Territories in United Nations world conferences in fields such as the environment or population; drawing up economic, social and constitutional profiles of the 10 non-independent Caribbean countries, designed to be updated annually; recording the level and nature of participation by Territories as members, associate members or observers in the United Nations specialized agencies and as participants in their regional programmes; recording the participation of the Caribbean Territories in the programme of action of the Summit of the Americas, specifically in the areas of sustainable development, drug trafficking and drug abuse, hemispheric free trade, energy cooperation, telecommunications, science and technology, basic health services and other areas; conducting a future study of the impact of the proposed Free Trade Area of the Americas on the economies of the Territories, and of the potential for their regional economic integration within the framework of the newly-created Association of Caribbean States; and making an analysis of external trade between the Territories and the wider Caribbean region.

4. The interests of the Non-Self-Governing Territories could be served through meaningful collaboration between the General Assembly and the various regional commissions. It had been to the advantage of the Territories, for instance, to participate in the follow-up activities to the Programme of Action of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and in the follow-up to various other United Nations world conferences. The Territories themselves had called for such collaboration in four regional seminars held since 1990 in Barbados, Vanuatu, Grenada, and Papua New Guinea, and ECLAC was prepared to undertake its regional portion of an extensive study on Non-Self-Governing Territories proposed at the 1990 Pacific regional seminar.

5. Concerns had also been expressed by representatives of Territories at the mid-term review of the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, conducted during the Caribbean regional seminar in Trinidad and Tobago in July 1995, that key provisions of the Plan of Action had not yet been implemented. Accordingly, the report of that most recent seminar had recommended that the Special Committee on decolonization and ECLAC should conduct a joint comprehensive study on the access of Non-Self-Governing Territories to the United Nations system, in furtherance of their development; that the General Assembly should help ECLAC to carry out its programme of action for the Caribbean Territories; and that ECLAC should be given support in implementing various provisions of the Plan of Action for the Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism for which no mechanism was as yet in place, even though a number of economic, social and constitutional studies had been mandated by the General Assembly. ECLAC stood ready to work with the General Assembly and the Special Committee, as urged by the Caribbean Territories themselves, to further the social and economic development of those Territories and to implement the Declaration on decolonization.

6. Mr. DEJAMMET (France) said that he wished to speak on the question of New Caledonia under agenda item 18, despite his Government's continuing reservations regarding United Nations competence in the affairs of one of France's overseas departments or territories, which were essentially within its own domestic jurisdiction, in the terms of Article 2, paragraph 7, of the Charter.

7. The political, economic and social climate in New Caledonia had changed radically over the past seven years. All the political forces in the Territory had, under enlightened leadership since the 1988 Matignon Accords, shown that they were intent on re-establishing peace and building their future together. The three essential provisions of the Accords, it would be recalled, were the right of Caledonians to self-determination; decentralization; and social and economic realignment and development of the Territory. The right to self-determination was scheduled to be exercised in 1998 through a referendum in which only voters continuously resident in the Territory for at least 10 years would participate. As to decentralization, it had been decided that the three provinces of New Caledonia would be administered by their own elected representatives and would enjoy broad jurisdiction and resources corresponding to their needs. His Government had acted resolutely to promote the economic and social development of the Territory and reduce inequalities. The Committee to Monitor the Matignon Accords met annually to assess the implementation of the Accords, make any necessary adjustments and set new priorities. In 1994, two interim monitoring committees had been set up to provide technical advice.

8. The institutional mechanisms provided for in the Accords had been put in place. The Territory's organization into three provinces with broader powers had improved the access of all regions to political and administrative power. The provincial assemblies, elected by universal suffrage, were functioning well, and each province was fully engaged in the work of economic development.

9. France's objective was to continue to promote harmonious, balanced and job-creating economic development, and to that end his Government had signed several development contracts with each province, as mandated by the Matignon Accords. In keeping with the objectives outlined in the Referendum Act of 1988, the contracts were a way of creating employment equitably throughout the Territory, so that the South did not outstrip the other provinces, and they reflected the priorities set by each of the provinces. They provided, inter alia, for extensive low-cost housing projects and the large-scale development of the city of Nouméa. Major infrastructural programmes were moving along rapidly and satisfactorily, and the nickel export sector was being promoted, despite a depressed world market. In February 1995, the Agency for the Economic Development of New Caledonia had been set up, comprising the Government of France, the territorial government and the three provincial governments, with a programme of action focusing on local development, territorial development and the attraction of French and foreign investment.

10. In the field of training, very encouraging results had already been seen in secondary and vocational education, and an effort was being made to build new schools and to train more teachers, especially among Melanesians, to serve the growing number of pupils. Concomitantly, the cultural identity of the Melanesian community was being safeguarded through an agency for the development of Kanak culture and a government-funded cultural centre.

11. To sustain the encouraging pattern of the past seven years, new guidelines were being devised to meet specific concerns expressed in the Territory regarding young people, the cities, housing, the need for economic diversification in the private sector and the need to recognize the role of custom in Caledonian society.

12. With regard to the draft resolution to be adopted by the Committee on New Caledonia, France was pleased to note that the text in document A/50/23, Part V, chapter IX, took account of the general progress in the Territory and referred to the dialogue established between the parties under the auspices of the French Government. Accordingly, his delegation would raise no objection to the text, nor would it ask for a vote.

13. The Matignon Accords had radically transformed New Caledonia's relations with the surrounding region, and its political, economic, scientific and cultural contacts with neighbouring countries were expanding. A recent cooperation agreement with Vanuatu was a case in point. France attached the greatest importance to the Territory's incorporation into the South Pacific community and would continue to encourage such exchanges and cooperation. His Government was determined to do everything to ensure that the inhabitants of New Caledonia could build a prosperous land and exercise their right to self-determination in the best possible conditions in 1998.

14. Mr. JELBAN (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that the objectives of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism would be achieved only through concrete action that responded to the wishes of the remaining colonized peoples to exercise their right to self-determination. The international community should do its utmost to prepare the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to exercise that right, achieve independence, determine their political status and end the colonial situation which many administering Powers attempted to conceal by launching political initiatives aimed at minimizing its significance. He welcomed the efforts of various United Nations bodies to assist such Territories and affirmed that the United Nations and the administering Powers bore a joint responsibility to consider the needs and interests of the peoples in the Territories and protect their environment and culture, as well as give priority to the diversification of their economies and the enhancement of their resources. The decolonization process was impeded by the fact that administering Powers used their military bases in the Non-Self-Governing Territories as a pretext for maintaining control over those Territories and confiscating land for military purposes. He therefore urged the United Nations to fulfil its responsibility to compel the administering Powers to refrain from establishing military facilities and conducting nuclear tests in the Territories, which should not be used as a dumping ground for nuclear waste or as a site for the stockpiling of nuclear weapons or weapons of mass destruction. The colonial countries should realize that times had changed and that the right of colonized peoples to self-determination was both universally recognized and inevitable.

15. Mr. IQBAL (Pakistan) said that decolonization stood out as the United Nations most remarkable contribution to the freedom of hundreds of millions of people across the globe, achieved through an impressive array of instruments and the moral and political support of the international community. That spirit of freedom should be preserved at all costs. The process of decolonization had entered its final stage, yet it was being replaced, both overtly and covertly, by new forms of colonialism. The aspirations of many peoples to self-determination were being crushed. The world community was dragging its feet over the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories; such factors as size, remoteness, geographical dispersion or vulnerability to natural disasters should not prevent the peoples of those Territories from exercising their right to self-determination and

independence. A case in point was Jammu and Kashmir, whose people had not been able to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination over the previous 48 years. Suppression of the natural urge of peoples to decide their own future not only violated a fundamental human right, but also threatened international peace and security. Pakistan firmly believed that the goal of decolonization could be achieved, perhaps by the end of the century. The Committee should look to the possibility of developing a strategy of post-decolonization peace-building, both to prevent potential conflicts and to assist in the social and economic well-being of decolonized peoples.

16. Ms. FINLAYSON (New Zealand) said that, as the administering Power of Tokelau, her country endorsed the view that the approach to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories should be innovative and carefully tailored to their particular needs and locations. The most recent United Nations visiting mission to Tokelau had witnessed the substantial progress made on the path to self-determination, which had continued apace over the past year. The whole country was now involved in the discussion of its future and style of government; constitution development workshops had been held on each atoll and constitutional terms of reference had been agreed by the competent committee. New Zealand's consistent position had been that it would be guided by the wishes of the people of Tokelau concerning its future political status. It was firmly committed to providing ongoing assistance to the Territory once an act of self-determination had been made. She emphasized that United Nations support had been an important factor in maintaining the momentum of change. The remarkable progress accomplished was the result of fruitful interaction between Tokelau, New Zealand and the United Nations, as well as between the former two alone, thus demonstrating that decolonization could only be successfully achieved through the combined determination of the people of the Territory concerned, the administering Power and the United Nations. Such was the lesson to be borne in mind during the second half of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

17. Mr. JEMIE (Indonesia) said that the near demise of colonialism was among the momentous achievements of the United Nations, whose vast contribution to the decolonization process had transformed world geo-politics. The landmark tenets on matters such as colonialism, adopted by the newly independent States in Bandung four decades earlier, remained enduringly relevant. The shared colonial experience of those States had culminated in the adoption of the historic Declaration on decolonization; being broadly conceived, that Declaration could be applied to each colonial situation, while taking into account the distinctive characteristics and historical circumstances of each Territory, an approach which had guided the work of the Special Committee. However, more flexible, practical and innovative approaches to self-determination were required in regard to the few remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, beset as they were by complex and diverse problems. In that connection, it was important to address the issue of which available option would help to fulfil the true wishes and aspirations of the people concerned, who should themselves determine their choice of political governance in accordance with their traditional practices and cultures. The Committee's role in supporting the interests of small Territories was therefore vital. The administering Powers also bore a heavy responsibility for promoting the political, economic and social development of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, as well as for emphasizing the promotion and protection of human

rights, in which respect the complexity of different value systems and cultures should be taken into account. He concluded by affirming his delegation's commitment to attaining the lofty goal of finally consummating the decolonization process.

18. Mr. SAMADI (Islamic Republic of Iran), while acknowledging the considerable successes achieved in the field of decolonization, said that the vestiges of colonialism had not yet been eliminated. Obvious political obstacles were to be overcome before the goal of complete decolonization by the year 2000 was achieved. The people of the Non-Self-Governing Territories should be able to exercise their right to choose their own future freely. The administering Powers should therefore create conditions which fostered an awareness of the possibilities open to them that was free of any external influence. United Nations visiting missions were the best means of assessing political, economic and social conditions in the Non-Self-Governing Territories and ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of their peoples, and the administering Powers should therefore cooperate with the Special Committee in regard to such missions. They should also promote the economic advancement of such Territories and protect them against the various foreign interests which exploited their natural resources, thereby depriving the indigenous populations of their right to control the resources. The military bases and activities of colonial Powers in the Territories likewise adversely affected the rights and interests of their inhabitants; activities such as nuclear testing and the dumping of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction, which had been rejected by United Nations resolutions and decisions, adversely affected the environment and economic development. The Territories should therefore remain free of any such activity. Finally, he stressed the need for all Member States to continue their determined efforts to achieve a world free of colonialism by the year 2000.

19. Mrs. des ILES (Trinidad and Tobago), speaking on behalf of the 13 Member States which were members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that the United Nations and the Special Committee on decolonization could be justly proud of the significant role they had played in decolonization and in promoting political, economic, social and educational advancement in the Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories. As the end of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism drew closer, the Special Committee must commit itself to the fulfilment of its mandate in relation to the remaining 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories by the end of the Decade.

20. The mid-term review of the Plan of Action for the International Decade, which had been undertaken in Port-of-Spain in July 1995, had placed particular emphasis on a realistic examination of options for self-determination. In considering those options, it had noted that the Special Committee should be guided by General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV), of 14 and 15 December 1960 respectively, as well as other options in conformity with the United Nations Charter and other relevant international instruments. The point had also been made that legitimate acts of self-determination should be conducted with the involvement of the United Nations, in view of its world-wide experience in assisting such exercises. The seminar had also concluded that continued examination of the spectrum of options for self-determination remained an essential task of the Special Committee.

21. It was evident from the report of the Special Committee that in many of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories no up-to-date information was available on the wishes of the population with respect to its future political status. There had also been long lapses since visiting missions had taken place, and there was a recognized need for administering Powers to conduct appropriate exercises to ascertain the wishes of the people. The Committee had also noted that some of the Territories were seeking self-determination options other than independence, while others gave priority to socio-economic development before choosing their future political status.

22. In view of those findings, it had become even more urgent for administering Powers to cooperate with the Special Committee, which had demonstrated its willingness to adopt a practical, flexible and innovative approach in addressing the situation in the Territories. Such cooperation would necessarily include the provision of timely and up-to-date information on the Territories, inviting visiting missions to them and full participation by all administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee. Visiting missions remained an important mechanism whereby the Committee could acquire first-hand information on political, economic and social conditions, and time-lapses of more than 10 years between such missions were unacceptable. Other administering Powers should follow the lead of New Zealand, whose cooperation in the work of the Committee was exemplary.

23. Most of the remaining Territories were small islands which faced special challenges because of their economic and ecological vulnerability, and it was thus important to increase the assistance given to those Territories by the United Nations system. The CARICOM countries appreciated the adoption of General Assembly resolution 49/21 of 2 and 20 December 1994, as well as UNDP Executive Board resolution 95/33, which authorized continued assistance to Caribbean countries in the light of recent hurricane damage. They also supported increased participation by the remaining Territories in regional cooperation arrangements and their increased access to subregional programmes and activities of the United Nations system.

24. The CARICOM countries appreciated the work of the Department of Public Information on issues pertaining to decolonization. However, its dissemination of information on those issues was less than adequate, and the Department's activities in the Non-Self-Governing Territories should be increased.

25. The final phase in the decolonization process required the continuous exploration of innovative approaches to deal with the special needs of each of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories. It was to be hoped that the Committee would complete its work within the time-frame it had been assigned. To that end, the commitment of Member States to General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV) and the 1991 Plan of Action for the Eradication of Colonialism should be reinforced.

26. Mr. NWAMBULUKUTU (United Republic of Tanzania) urged increased involvement by all Member States in the decolonization question. The fact that the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories were small islands with small populations did not make them any the less entitled to their right to self-determination. The progress recently made in the case of South Africa, for which the United Nations

deserved some credit, demonstrated that perseverance on its part was important. The recent admission of Palau to membership in the United Nations had consigned the United Nations trusteeship system to history and brought the Organization a step closer to its ultimate goal of universality of membership. It should spur all Member States to accelerate implementation of the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. In some cases, such as that of Western Sahara, increased efforts were called for and both the Government of Morocco and the Frente POLISARIO should be encouraged to cooperate with MINURSO to end the current deadlock.

27. The Special Committee on decolonization continued to make commendable efforts to implement the Plan of Action, including the seminars held by the Committee to raise the awareness of peoples in colonial Territories about their right to self-determination and the obligations and responsibilities of the administering Powers, the United Nations and the rest of the international community.

28. The Special Committee had always emphasized the importance of participation by the administering Powers in its work. His delegation hoped that the administering Powers would heed the appeals made to them to work closely with the Committee and, in that connection, commended New Zealand for its continued cooperation with the Committee and for respecting its obligation under Article 73 e of the Charter. It hoped that more administering Powers would accept United Nations visiting missions to the Territories under their jurisdiction.

29. In order to accommodate the concerns expressed by a number of Member States, every effort had been made to streamline the work of the Special Committee and adapt it to the changing world situation. His delegation was pleased with the further consolidation of the work of the Committee and intended to continue to participate constructively in the Committee's future efforts in that direction. At the same time, however, it was its hope that no attempt would be made to undermine the work of the Committee or divert it from its clear mandate. To reinterpret the right of peoples to self-determination in ways which were in conflict with the Charter and the Declaration on decolonization would be unacceptable.

30. Mr. ARKWRIGHT (United Kingdom) said that as the holder of 10 dependent Territories, the United Kingdom remained firmly committed to the principle of self-determination. It was, however, disappointed by the continued failure of the draft resolutions and decisions before the Committee to appreciate the considerable difference between self-determination and independence. Archaic and irrelevant language still appeared in the texts before the Committee, even though the acting Chairman of the Special Committee had acknowledged that other options were open to the Non-Self-Governing Territories. It was totally incorrect to equate self-determination solely with independence.

31. The British record on decolonization was good. The United Kingdom continued to take very seriously its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations to develop self-government in its dependent Territories. Within the constraints of treaty obligations, it remained firmly committed to ensuring, in cooperation with the locally elected Governments, that their constitutional frameworks continued

to meet the interests and wishes of their peoples. Each Territory held regular and free elections. It was therefore not relevant for the Special Committee to request the United Kingdom as the administering Power to conduct constitutional reviews or to ascertain through referenda the views of the people of the Territories. The United Kingdom would consider any proposals put forward by the people themselves.

32. His Government also took seriously its obligations regarding the economic needs of the dependent Territories. The draft resolution on the question of foreign economic interest was therefore also disappointing, in that it ignored the benefits that foreign economic interests could bring to dependent Territories. As many of the elected Governments in the Territories recognized, such investments played a positive and beneficial role, especially in small islands with limited capital and few natural resources of their own, and the Special Committee should recognize that, too.

33. Mr. GAMITO (Portugal) said that the Special Committee and the General Assembly had made a significant contribution to the success of the United Nations in achieving self-determination and independence for the overwhelming majority of the colonial countries and peoples. Even now, when that task seemed near completion, it was important to emphasize that the principles and rules which had governed the process were still valid and remained applicable to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories.

34. Since its restoration of democracy, Portugal had always cooperated with the Special Committee and had taken an active role in the implementation of the right to self-determination in its former colonies. In its capacity as administering Power of the Non-Self-Governing Territory of East Timor, it had cooperated with the Committee as fully as it could, despite the fact that it had been effectively prevented from fulfilling its responsibilities. In the light of those responsibilities, it had sought the improvement of the human rights situation in East Timor and had engaged in direct talks with Indonesia under the auspices of the United Nations Secretary-General on achieving a just, comprehensive and internationally acceptable settlement of the question. Special attention had also been given to the association of East Timorese in that dialogue. Portugal believed that there could be no substitute for a peaceful and negotiated settlement which fully respected the legitimate rights of the East Timorese people and hoped that an open and constructive spirit would prevail in the next round of talks between Portugal and Indonesia which would pave the way for positive proposals on the issue.

35. Mr. SNOUSSI (Morocco) said that while remaining more than ever determined to regain its territorial integrity, of which it had been deprived by colonization, Morocco had unceasingly attempted to find a just and definitive solution to the problem of Sahara. His country had taken the initiative in requesting that a referendum on self-determination in Sahara should be organized and had then cooperated fully in preparing for it, at the cost of considerable material sacrifice, and it was disappointing that following the acceptance by his Government on 26 June 1995 of the Secretary-General's criteria for identification under Security Council resolution 725 (1991), despite its serious reservations, those criteria had been completely rejected as a result of representations by the other Party.

36. Morocco had then accepted the compromise interpretation and application of criteria proposed by the Secretary-General, which the other party had eventually half-heartedly accepted. Despite its acceptance, it had instructed its sheikhs - heads of tribes - to oppose, almost systematically, the application of anyone who had submitted himself for identification under criteria 4 and 5, while itself accepting the applications of two men called Bashir Sayyid and Abdul Aziz, overlooking the plain fact that any applicant could only be accepted by the Identification Commission; that applied equally to applicants residing outside the Territory. Morocco reaffirmed its wish to restore full citizenship to Saharans living outside the Territory, as it had for Saharans living in Morocco itself. At the same time, it emphasized the need for the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara to remain in place, since it was a force for stability in the region.

37. Every time the Committee met there was talk of the need for a dialogue to settle problems, some of which were real, others not. There already existed a settlement plan, however, under the aegis of the Security Council and the Secretary-General, and a report on the matter was issued once a fortnight. None the less Morocco had attempted a dialogue more than 15 times, yet each time someone clearly enjoying great authority had made sure it came to nothing. The time for serious action had arrived. Under the settlement plan, there were clear rules and deadlines for registration and identification. He defied anyone to say that his country had not respected them. It was hardly Morocco's fault that those claiming to act for over 30,000 refugees in fact represented a tiny proportion of real Saharans. The 181,000 plus already registered had conformed to the criteria established by the Secretary-General and approved in Security Council resolutions 725 (1991) and 907 (1994), as well as being agreed by both parties. Over 25,000 remained, currently living in camps. It was up to the Identification Commission to accept or reject applications, and no one had the right to prevent a Saharan from appearing before the Commission. Moreover, in Morocco itself there were 700,000 possible candidates, representing three generations of exiled Saharans. The other criteria unrelated to the Spanish census of 1974 had been wilfully ignored. The claim had been made that the four criteria recognized by both parties were invalid unless they gave the men called Abdul Aziz and Bashir Sayyid the right to identification, even though they did not appear in the 1974 census and indeed in 1973 they had both been in Morocco.

38. Despite the efforts of the Mission and the good will of his country, the identification operation had met with delays which Morocco deplored and for which it was in no way responsible. It had protested to the Secretary-General as recently as August 1995 at the various delaying tactics which put the implementation of the settlement plan at risk. It had also drawn his attention to the interpretation and application of the identification criteria on the ground, which violated the spirit and the letter of the settlement plan. His country had been very patient, it had been cooperative at all times, and it had suffered considerable sacrifices. It was time for the issue to be settled once and for all. The Committee should also inform the General Assembly of the increasing difficulty that the Mission was facing in continuing to function, both financially and operationally. In that area, there were real problems to be overcome.

39. Mr. ARKWRIGHT (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, referred to the statement made earlier that day by the representative of Ecuador, expressing the wish that a solution should be found to the sovereignty dispute over the Falklands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands. The United Kingdom's position on those matters was well known and had been set out most recently in its exercise of the right of reply in connection with the statement made to the General Assembly by the Argentine Foreign Minister on 27 September 1995.

The meeting rose at 5.20 p.m.